

# **WFP News Video: Violence and Hunger Puts Kasai Region of DR Congo on the Brink of a Humanitarian Disaster**

## **Kasai, Dem Rep of Congo**

**Shot: 21-25Aug,2017**

**TRT: 3:13**

### Shotlist:

:00-:28

#### **People displaced by fighting on the road with their belongings**

Jean-Pierre Kashila, 41yrs old was an artisan diamond miner in Kamonia. When militias attacked on June 6 2017 their home was destroyed and a child was killed. He and 13 family members fled, living more than a month in the bush near the Angolan border. They have been walking for 2 weeks to reach the regional capital, Kananga.

near Kananga, (Kasai region DRC)

Shot: 22Aug2017

:28-:42

#### **SOT: Jean-Pierre Kashila, displaced artisanal diamond miner (Tshiluba)**

"We escaped the killing. Ask God to protect us and keep us safe. When we were attacked, we fled and hid in the bush"

near Kananga, (Kasai region DRC)

Shot: 22Aug2017

:42-:52

#### **Destruction**

"Pourquoi Sa?" ("Why This?") written on wall of home/mechanic shop that was destroyed in attacks by militias in March 2017. The shopowner was killed.His neighbors stand in the ruins.

Nganza, (Kasai region DRC)

Shot: 21Aug2017

:52-1:10

Clement is the pastor in a church in the village of Nganza. When it was attacked on March 21, 2017 only he, El Hassan-the village Imam and another villager remained behind to heal the wounded and bury the dead.

Nganza, (Kasai region DRC)

Shot: 21Aug2017

1:10-1:25

#### **SOT: Clement, pastor of Nganza (Italian)**

"People are hungry because they haven't worked, they haven't been able to cultivate their fields. Even next season I think we will feel the effects because this is the time to plant and we aren't able to."

Nganza, (Kasai region DRC)

Shot: 21Aug2017

1:25-1:41

#### **Testing for malnutrition**

The latest WFP/FAO data shows an alarming 30 percent rise over the past year of acute malnutrition in Kasai due to the violence. The IPC(Intergrated Food Security Phase Classification) indicates areas with Phase 4 levels (one phase below famine)

Soeurs De Saint Joseph De Arbes Health Center

near Kananga, (Kasai region DRC)

Shot: 22Aug2017

1:41-2:02

#### **Children victims of violence**

Mbuyi is 15 years old. She was shot through the leg as she and her family tried to escape the fighting. All alone in the hospital, she doesn't know where her parents are. She may lose her leg without help to pay for treatment in a better equipped hospital in the capital, Kinshasa.

Children have also been kidnapped and recruited as soldiers by militias during the conflict.

Tshikapa (Kasai region, DRC)

Shot: 25Aug2017

2:02-2:30

#### **SOT Jonathan Dumont, WFP Spokesperson(english)**

"Thousands of people have been killed here in Kasai...more than a million displaced. The international community needs to step up to the plate and help these people. There is a lot of things going on in the world...a lot of resources being asked of the international community, but these people's lives value just as much as anyone else's in any other crisis. Hunger is on the rise here. If we don't act now then it's going to get a lot worse. We are going to see ourselves in the same situation as in the other places that desperately need our help."

Tshikapa (Kasai region, DRC)

Shot: 24Aug2017

2:30-2:57

#### **WFP Food Distribution**

First WFP distribution in Tshikapa of locally purchased beans, wheat, oil and salt for 3000 people

Tshikapa (Kasai region, DRC)

Shot: 24Aug2017

2:57-3:13

#### **Displaced family eating WFP provided food**

near Kananga, (Kasai region DRC)

ENDS

**The crisis in the remote Kasai region is the most alarming in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Thousands of people are reported to have been killed and buried in mass graves; more than a million have fled their villages since August 2016, with tens of thousands crossing into neighbouring Angola.**

**The displaced are in urgent need of assistance. Most are living with host families in Kasai, or in the forest, with little access to food or services of any kind.**

**WFP is extremely concerned by the lack of resources for the Kasai crisis. Despite this, WFP is launching operations to respond to the urgent food and nutrition security needs of the most vulnerable among the conflict-affected population.**

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there are some 1.4 million internally displaced people across the Kasai provinces. In addition, more than 31,000

people have fled the region into neighboring Angola. With up to 3.8 million people displaced in total, the DRC is home to the largest population of internally displaced people in Africa.

The sharp deterioration in people's food security is mainly attributable to displacement caused by an upsurge in conflict and pest infestation in crops across the country. WFP continues to coordinate with FAO and other partners to serve the most vulnerable people in the Kasai region, as well as in other parts of the country.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have launched an emergency operation to provide food assistance to 42,000 food insecure people in the Kasai and Kasai Central provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Food assistance will be provided to people who have fled their villages due to conflict in the region.

Where safe access is possible, WFP plans to assist 25,000 displaced persons in Kasai Central and 17,000 people in the Kasai province in the coming days. However, WFP urgently requires US\$17.3 million to support scale up of its operations to assist 250,000 vulnerable persons in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces from September to December 2017.

## **BACKGROUND**

Fighting broke out in Kasai Central province in August 2016 over political tension between Kinshasa's central power and a local chief: what should have been an administrative formality resulted in the formation of a new anti-government militia movement, the Kamuina Nsapu. The violence has since spread to all three provinces in Kasai.

The intensity of conflict between armed groups, and often with national forces, continues unabated. The clashes are over land, ethnicity and, most of all, over central government authority. Thousands of civilians are being subjected to severe violence by all parties.

The massive displacement has already resulted in one agricultural season being missed and thousands face severe food shortages in coming months. In addition to meeting immediate assistance, there is urgent need for agricultural support ahead of the next planting season in August. WFP is working with FAO to ensure interventions focus on the three most-affected areas: Tshikapa (Kasai), Kananga (Kasai Central) and Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental).

This is just the latest outbreak of violence in DRC. The area most affected by conflict in recent decades has been the east, particularly the part bordering Rwanda and Burundi. Eight of Congo's 26 provinces are today affected by violent unrest. There are now 3.7 million displaced people in DRC, making it the country with the most IDPs in Africa. This figure has doubled compared to March 2016 when there were 1.8 million IDPs, mainly in eastern DRC. But humanitarian aid alone will not solve the man-made problems in Kasai, or in the country as a whole, in the absence of peace and political stability.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights says significant abuses have been committed by both the rebels groups and the national army. As many as 90 mass graves have been unearthed; more than 3,300 people have been killed, according to the Catholic Church; the fragile health system has fallen apart; hundreds of schools have been destroyed. Girls and boys are being used as fighters or "helpers" by the militias. Hundreds of cases of gender-based violence have been reported. Some 56,000 newly displaced have been registered in Tshikapa since May.

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the prevention of genocide, Adama Dieng, visited the Kasai region in June, urging all parties to stop the violence.

The situation in Kasai Central province is of most concern because of the emergence of new militias which target civilians as well as State institutions (army, police, schools, hospitals and churches). Multiple fronts

of conflict are spreading like waves: while older conflict zones seem to be stabilizing, new territories are falling to militia and national army activities.

The provincial government of Kasai province is trying to persuade IDPs to return to their villages, claiming the army has pushed the militia back into the forest. The authorities are urging the humanitarian community to speed up assistance. However, it is not clear whether security has been adequately restored.

## **DRC GENERAL SITUATION**

Amid rising violence and displacement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 7.7 million people face acute hunger - a 30 percent increase over the last year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned in a Aug 14, 2017 report.

According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) between June 2016 and June 2017, the number of people in “emergency” and “crisis” levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4 and 3) – which precede “famine” levels on the IPC scale – and requiring urgent humanitarian food assistance rose by 1.8 million, from 5.9 million to 7.7 million.

DRC’s child mortality rates are among the highest in the world. According to the country’s Demographic and Health Survey 2013-14, 8 percent of children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition, and some 43 percent are chronically malnourished and show signs of stunting. In North and South Kivu and Kasai provinces, that figure is around 53 percent.

In eastern DRC, one of the consequences of the upsurge of conflict is the dramatic increase in food-insecure households. In North Kivu, these have increased from 40 percent in 2014 to 60 percent all households in 2016; in South Kivu, they have gone up from a third to nearly two-thirds of all households in 2016. (*Evaluation approfondie de la sécurité alimentaire des ménages en situation d’urgence*, May 2016).

## **ENDS**

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

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